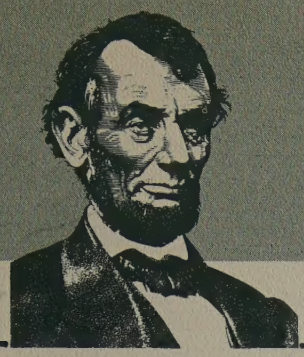

Lincoln Lore

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". . . IT IS NOT VERY PROBABLE ILLINOIS WILL GO FOR TAYLOR"

With Lincoln's congressional term drawing to a close he assumed an active role in national politics in the fall of 1848 and worked diligently for the Whig Ticket of Taylor and Fillmore.

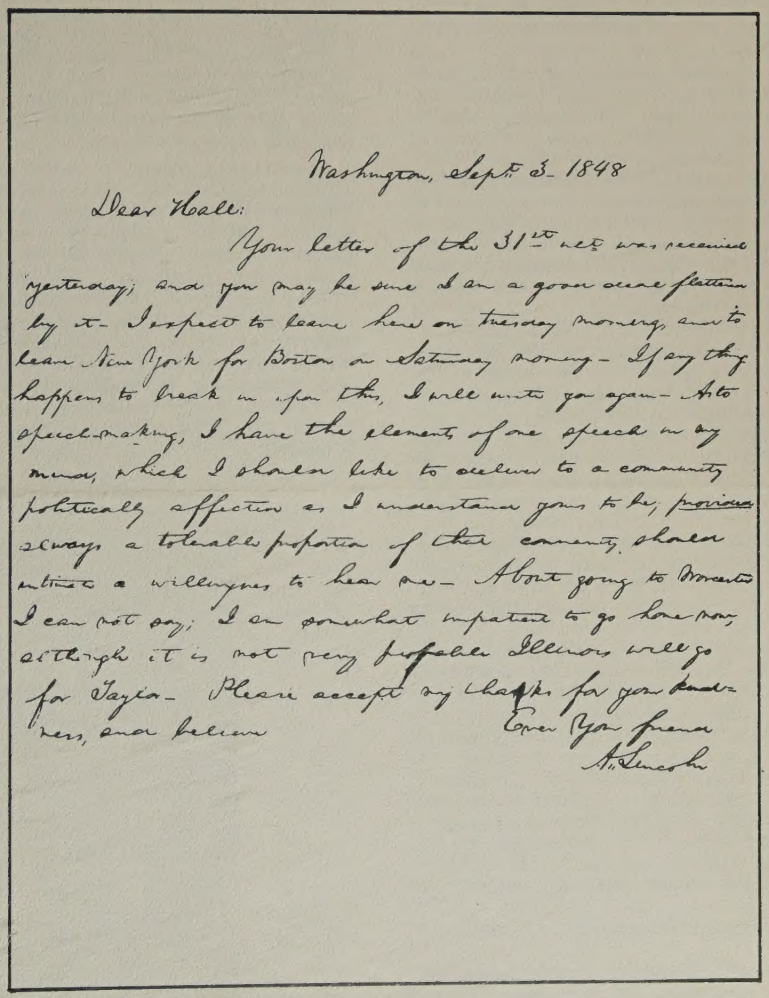
Early in September of 1848 Lincoln left Washington for Massachusetts where he made political speeches in Worcester, New Bedford, Boston, Lowell, Dorchester, Chelsea, Dedham, Cambridge and Taunton.

Junius Hall of Boston wrote Lincoln on August 31, 1848, suggesting that he speak in that city, and he assured him that he would meet with a receptive audience. Hall also suggested that Worcester might be an important city to include in his itinerary.

On September 3, 1848 Lincoln wrote Hall that he planned to leave Washington on Tuesday morning (September 5th), for New York. However the *National Intelligencer* announced on September 5th, that a mass meeting of Whigs would be held at "their platform" in Washington at 7:00 p.m., and that A. Lincoln was one of several politicians expected to make a speech. No one can say definitely whether or not he was present at this celebration of the "anniversary of the defense of Fort Harrison 'the first of the glorious achievements of the gallant Zachary Taylor.'"

Lincoln also made tentative plans to leave New York for Boston on Saturday morning September 9th, however, there is some indication that he did not leave Washington until September 9th and that he spent Sunday, September 10th and Monday, September 11th enroute to Worcester, the first city on his itinerary. Lincoln spoke in Worcester on Tuesday, September 12th and Wednesday, September 13th. His first Boston address was delivered on Friday, September 15th.

The newly discovered original letter now in the Foundation files, dated September 3, 1848, and addressed to Junius Hall of Boston gives some insight into Congressman Lincoln's plans for his Massachusetts trip as well as his accurate prediction that "it is not very probable Illinois will go for Taylor."



Washington, Sept 3- 1848

Dear Hall:

Your letter of the 31st ult was received yesterday, and you may be sure I am a good deal flattered by it- I expect to leave here on Tuesday morning, and to leave New York for Boston on Saturday morning- If any thing happens to break in upon this, I will write you again- As to speech-making, I have the elements of one speech in my mind, which I should like to deliver to a community politically affected as I understand yours to be, provided always a tolerable proportion of the community should intimate a willingness to hear me- About going to Worcester I can not say; I am somewhat impatient to go home now, although it is not very probable Illinois will go for Taylor- Please accept my thanks for your kindness, and believe

Ever Your friend
A. Lincoln

This original letter was acquired in 1957 from the 82 year old daughter of Junius Hall who now resides in the state of New York.

The letter, folded and sealed with wax and franked "Free A. Lincoln M. C." and postmarked with a hand stamp "Free Washington, D. C., Sep. 4" follows:

"Washington Sept. 3-1848

"Dear Hall:

"Your letter of the 31st ult was received yesterday, and you may be sure I am a good deal flattered by it—I expect to leave here on Tuesday morning, and to leave New York for Boston on Saturday morning—If anything happens to break in upon this, I will write you again—As to speech-making, I have the elements of one speech in my mind, Which I should like to deliver to a community politically affected as I understand yours to be, *provided* always a tolerable proportion of the community should intimate a willingness to hear me—About going to Worcester I cannot say, I am somewhat impatient to go home now, although it is not very probable Illinois will go for Taylor. Please accept my thanks for your kindness, and believe.

Ever Your friend
A. Lincoln"

SOME CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING A MISSING COPY OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

(Continued from the November, 1957 Issue)

Gilder was quick to reassure Miss Nicolay in a letter dated December 9, 1908:

"Really—you blame yourself—when I don't see that either you or Mrs. Hay should blame yourselves, at all.

"We were thoro' in our search here—but had comparatively little trouble. Don't think about it any more. We are all liable to mistakes and things are always getting lost. Not always found. That is the point—now."

On December 9, 1908, Robert Lincoln wrote Miss Nicolay: "Upon my return from a short absence, I find your note in regard to the Gettysburg Address manuscript, and at the same time a note from Mrs. Hay, telling me of her finding it. I am very glad indeed that it has been found, because it is so interesting a memento of my father, that it would be a pity to have it disappear.

"I cannot quite understand what is the cause of Mrs. Hay writing me so penitent a letter about its discovery. She seems to have been having a good deal of bother about it, and to have repeatedly said that she could not find it. I had not written to her at all. I suppose that perhaps you had inquired of her on the subject, and also that General James Grant Wilson had written her. Of course, Mrs. Hay cannot be at all at fault in the matter for not discovering at once a document, the existence of which she did not know, and I have so written her."

It did not take Helen Nicolay long, inquiring historian that she was, to discover that Mrs. Hay had found in her husband's papers an "experimental draft" of the address and not the "original" copy. On December 12, 1908 she wrote Mrs. Hay:

"I have not been able to stop thinking about it and the result of my meditations is not cheering. I have come to the conclusion that yours is not the 'original draft' after all—but an experimental draft (some authorities think this draft of thirty-three lines was made at Washington immediately before or after Lincoln's departure for Gettysburg) that Mr. Lincoln made when he came home or at the time he wrote out his copy for the Baltimore Fair. My reasons are these:

1. The variations from the facsimile printed by my father—both in the position of words on the line—and the lack of letter heading.
2. The fact stated by my father (p. 5 of the magazine article) that he saw Mr. Lincoln write out the latter portion in pencil. (yours is ink) on a piece of paper different in color from the first sheet. If he saw him do it that must be the first draft.
3. On p. 3 my father speaks of a revised copy by Mr. Lincoln after returning to Washington, upon a careful comparison of his original draft with the printed newspaper version, and his own recollection of the exact form in which he delivered it.
4. The ms. you found the other day is probably the first trial of his hand at a revised version. The Baltimore Copy the final outcome of it. You will notice that they seem to be written on the same kind of paper.
5. This theory will account for you and Mr. Adams thinking you had the 'Second Gettysburg Address' —coincides with my recollection of the color, looks ie. of the ms. my father had—and explains (perhaps) my conversation with your husband about a Lincoln ms.

"I am awfully sorry, but after milling over it a night and a day I see no other conclusion. I enclose a copy of the magazine article—marked to show you what I mean. If I am right I suppose we ought to do some more writing. I enclose a note to Mr. Lincoln and one to Mr. Gilder. If you approve, please mail them—with or without a word from you."

The note to Mr. Gilder dated December 12, 1908 follows:

"On closer examination the Gettysburg ms. found by Mrs. Hay the other day, proves to be, not the original from which Mr. Lincoln read his address but an experimental draft made after his return to Washington when he was comparing his original ms. the newspaper version, and his own recollection of the precise form in which he delivered it—as my father notes on page 3 of his Century article. This ms. of Mrs. Hay's is all in ink. The latter part of the first draft was in pencil.

"So the original is as much lost as ever. This second discovery gives my recollection of the conversation with Secretary Hay about a Lincoln ms another 'show' for veracity—But I'd rather be proved wrongly by the original ms.—than not to know what has become of it."

Helen Nicolay wrote Robert Lincoln a letter almost identical to the one addressed to Gilder, except in closing she stated: "We have two mysteries on our hands instead of one. I am more sorry than I can express, that it is not found after all."

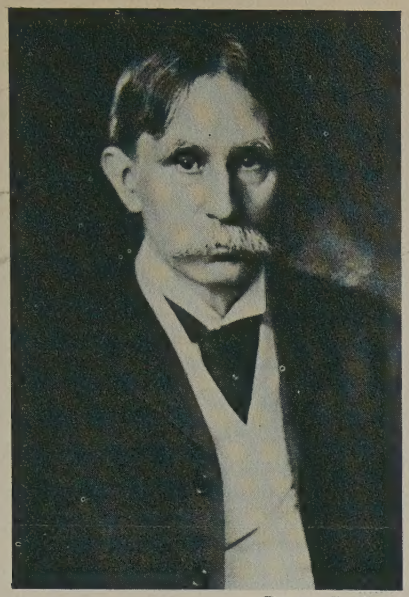
Mrs. Hay replied to Helen Nicolay on a mourning card with a black border bearing the date "Thursday a.m." She wrote:

"I think if you do not mind I will wait till I get Mr. Lincoln's answer before mailing the one (letter) to Mr. Gilder as I had asked him in so many words not to say who had it (Gettysburg address). I think it is only fair to him not to tell Mr. Gilder yet. I shall hope to get a letter today. I am so sorry about it all—but you can understand that the error was all because I was so ignorant. I will send the one to R. T. L."

From this correspondence it is plain to see that Miss Nicolay considered the twenty-nine line version of the Gettysburg address to be the "original" draft. However, General James Grant Wilson perhaps first asserted that "Mr. Lincoln made a fair copy of the Gettysburg address (thirty-three lines) on 'two sheets of plain paper' before going to Gettysburg, and meant to read from that, but left it at home." This statement appeared to Miss Nicolay as open to question. She wrote Albert H. Griffith on July 2, 1923: "It is difficult to understand how he could know this to be a fact. I prefer my father's statement as being an eye witness."

For several years the "original" address remained undiscovered, however, Helen Nicolay gave up all hope of its ownership, once it was found, after finding in her father's papers a copy of a letter he had addressed to General James Grant Wilson, from Holderness, New Hampshire, dated July 19, 1895. Nicolay stated: "The original draft of the Gettysburg Address, of which I published a facsimile in the Century eighteen months or two years ago, is in Washington **in my custody.** The word "custody" in this case was interpreted to indicate non-ownership. Miss Nicolay stated: "Had my father considered the manuscript his personal property he would not have written "in my custody" but "in my possession."

Helen Nicolay



Brown Brothers

Richard Watson Gilder

As to the conversation with John Hay, Miss Nicolay was sure she was mistaken. In a letter dated October 20, 1923 addressed to Albert H. Griffith of Fisk, Wisconsin, she wrote:

"The conversation with Mr. Hay took place very soon after my father's death, at a time when I was both physically and mentally exhausted. We were discussing many Lincoln manuscripts, and he evidently referred to some other one, not to the Gettysburg Address."

In a "to whom it may concern" statement Miss Nicolay prepared the following:

"From 1908 to 1916 there was considerable uncertainty and much correspondence about the whereabouts of the original copy of the Gettysburg Address, which seemed to have vanished completely.

"Mrs. Hay and I were especially distressed about it.

"On March 9, 1916 Mrs. Alice Hay Wadsworth (John Hay's daughter) and I, while looking over manuscripts in her possession, found that all the worry had been needless, for Colonel Hay had bound the original draft with Mr. Lincoln's final version in the sumptuous red morocco he used for his collection of important mss.

"A few days later Clarence Hay (a son of John Hay) and I went together to the Library of Congress, where I saw him give the mss. into the hands of Herbert Putnam, who was then librarian."

Miss Nicolay made a second trip to the Library of Congress on April 11, 1916 at which time she presented to Herbert Putnam, the Librarian of Congress a "memorandum drawn up by President Lincoln, August 23, 1864, and endorsed by each member of his cabinet, acknowledging the duty of cooperation with the president-elect to save the Union between the election and the inauguration."

This document was received by Miss Nicolay on December 24, 1908 from Mrs. Clara S. Hay who wrote:

"As I think you have been cheated out of your share of the Lincoln manuscripts, I want you to accept this one (memorandum, August 23, 1864) from me with the best of wishes for the Holiday season.

"If when you will want it no more you would like to bequeath it to my children you may do so—but it is for your very own till then."

On the day of the presentation of the "memorandum" Miss Nicolay received a letter from Herbert Putnam: "You presentation to the library this morning, of the memorandum by President Lincoln, mentioned in the enclosed formal acknowledgment, co-incidently with the presentation by Mr. Hay and his sisters of the two drafts of the Gettysburg address and of the original draft of the second inaugural, group into one occasion what I have expressed to Mr. Hay as the most precious individual documents that have been entrusted to me since I took office, seventeen years ago. An event such as this adds to the office a relish upon which I need scarcely expatiate; and I could not refrain from adding to the formal acknowledgment this more personal word of appreciation.

"The fact that the memorandum was so long a treasured possession of your father gives of course an additional value and significance to it, which will attach to it permanently."

Editor's Note: Five different original versions of the Gettysburg Address are extant. The First and Second Drafts of twenty-nine lines and thirty-three lines respectively are the property of the Library of Congress. The Third Draft of thirty-one lines is the property of The Illinois State Historical Library and the Fourth Draft of thirty-one lines has been acquired by Cornell University. The Fifth Draft of thirty-seven lines is sometimes designated as "the standard version" because it represents President Lincoln's final judgment as to the content of the address. At an auction sale held on April 27, 1949, the late Oscar B. Cintas of Havana, Cuba, purchased the Fifth Draft for $54,000.

LINCOLN'S FORTUNE

With the death of Abraham Lincoln reports were circulated that the late president left a handsome estate. *The Albany Atlas and Argus* published an article which was reprinted in the *New York Weekly Tribune*, April 22, 1865 stating that Lincoln was a millionaire.

According to the editor of the *New York Weekly Tribune* the publication of such a claim was a violation of "Decency In Journalism." The article was reprinted as an example of an editor who was more distinguished for malignity than ability. *The Atlas and Argus* reprint follows:

"An exchange, commenting upon the corruptions of the 'Honest Old Abe' Administration, makes the following severe but suggestive criticism: That a poor lawyer-whose note for $10,000 no safe, prudent business house would have discounted before his election, receiving only a salary of $25,000 per annum-should, in four short years have become a millionaire, worth, according to some rumors, $25,000,000, is a suggestive fact.

"Such profits, or anything like them, could come only from direct or indirect fleecing of the people by sharing in the robberies and stealings of subordinates, and by using his official information for purposes of speculation at the expense of the people and the fact that the parties guilty of such crimes, who have not shrewdness enough in them are discovered, when convicted are generally released, after a brief experience of confinment, by the 'clemency' of Abraham Lincoln is still more suggestive."

Commenting editorially the editor of the *New York Weekly Tribune* wrote: "The form of this libel evinces the perfect consciousness of its author that he is at once a coward and a villian. . . There are outrages on public decency so gross as to invoke general scorn and loathing, and the worst of them are habitually and willfully perpetrated by *The Albany Atlas*. If the editor were told today 'you can have everything President Lincoln owns for a hundredth part of what you represent him to be worth,' he would doubtless decline the offer."

The July 1, 1865 issue of the *Supplement to the (Hartford) Courant* carried an article on "Mr. Lincoln's Estate" expressing the idea that the wild rumors of the late president's fortune were circulated, obviously, to discourage the efforts now in the making to provide a competency for his family. The editor of the *Courant Supplement* wrote: "When Mr. Lincoln left Springfield, he had saved but a few thousand dollars from the practice of his profession. During his presidential term unusually heavy drains were made upon his purse, while prices averaged fifty percent, above prices of ordinary times. It is preposterous to suppose that he saved much out of his salary. While the people offer their private testimonials, it is certainly the duty of Congress to appropriate his salary for the unexpired term to his family. This was done in the case of President Harrison and Taylor, and the reasons are quadrupled for doing the same now."

David Davis, the administrator of the Lincoln estate filed his report on November 13, 1868. Under the skillful handling of the administrator the net estate of $83,343.70 had increased to $110,974.62. While Lincoln was not a millionaire, his estate was not small even by present day standards. In 1868 $111,000 was real wealth.

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St. Gaudens, 1427, 1431; Sandeson, 1432; Sands, 1430; Sargeant, 1432; Sawyer, 1429; Scheffer, 1432; Schurz, 1434; Schuyler, 1432; Schweizer, 1427; Schwengel, 1436; Scofield, 1430; Scott, D., 1432; Scott, H., 1436; Scott, H. D., 1432; Scott, W., 1432; Scott, Winfield, 1427, 1436; Scripps, 1434; Seldon, 1427; Seward, F., 1430; Seward, Wm., 1427, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1437; Seward, Mrs. Wm., 1431; Shear, 1429; Sherman, T. W., 1435; Sherman, Wm. T., 1433; Simpson, J., 1429; Simpson, Wm., 1427; Slade, 1437; Slataper, 1429; Smith, A. D., 1432; Smith, Jas., 1432; Smith, L. E., 1432; Smith, T. D., 1432; Smith, W. B., 1432; Smithers, 1432; Smuller, 1432; Sneed, 1432; Snider, 1432; Snow, 1431; Snyder, 1432; Speer, 1435; Spofford, Carrie, 1435; Spofford, Chas., 1435; Spooner, 1432; Sprague, 1433; Springer, 1429; Sproule, 1429, 1430, 1432; Squire, 1432; Stanton, 1427, 1430, 1433; Starr, 1432; Sterling, 1432; Sternberg, 1432; Stewart, A., 1432; Stewart, C., 1432; Stidger, 1428; Stinson, 1432; Stone, A. W., 1429; Stone, C. E., 1432; Stone, E. J., 1432; Stone, R. K., 1433; Stratton, 1432; Stroughton, 1430; Stuart, 1434; Stump, 1430; Surratt, I., 1430; Surratt, J., 1430; Sweeney, 1430, 1432.

Taft, 1427; Talcutt, 1435; Taney, 1427; Tanner, 1432; Taylor, 1427; Taylor, B., 1437; Taylor, Wm. E., 1429, 1432, 1436; Taylor, Wm. H., 1430; Taylor, Z., 1438; Tean, 1430; Thomas, 1427; Thomas, B. P., 1429, 1432; Thomas (French Lady), 1430; Thompson, 1430; Thompson, J. H., 1432; Thompson, N. A., 1427; Thompson, R. W., 1432; Thompson, Wm., 1432; Thornbury, 1427; Townsend, 1429, 1432, 1433, 1436; Trueman, 1429, 1430; Trumbull, 1427, 1436; Turner, 1429, 1436.

Van Vorhes, 1432; Verdi, 1436; Vidder, 1430; Volk, 1427; Vose, 1429.

Wade, 1427, 1436; Wadsworth, 1438; Walker, 1432; Wallace, 1432; Walton, 1429, 1432, 1436; Ward, 1429; Warner, 1432; Warren, 1435; Warren, L. D., 1432; Washburne, 1428; Washington, Geo., 1427, 1430, 1434; Washington, Martha, 1430; Watson, 1432; Webster, 1427, 1430; Weinman, 1427; Weitzel, 1436; Welles, 1433; Wessen, 1429, 1434; White, J. W., 1430; White, Mrs. J. W., 1430; White, N., 1432; White, R., 1430; Whitlesey, 1432; Wick, 1432; Wigfall, 1427; Wiley, 1429; Wilkerson, 1432; Williams, K., 1429; Williams, T. H., 1432; Willins, 1432; Williston, 1432; Wills, D., 1437; Wills, Mrs. D., 1437; Wilmot, 1429, 1432; Wilson, H., 1427; Wilson, J. F., 1432; Wilson, J. G., 1437, 1438; Wilson, T., 1432; Winchester, 1432; Wintersmith, 1428; Wismer, 1428; Woods, 1429; Woods, T., 1429; Woodson, 1432.

Yates, 1433; Yeaman, 1432.